

**QUESTIONS FOR APPOINTEES TO THE FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF CONTROL**

1. What goals would you like to accomplish during your time on the board?
2. Over the last 15 or 20 years it seems that all state universities have been expanding programs to try to offer everything to everyone. Do you think this is a good idea?
3. Please describe the conditions that would have to exist before you would vote to increase tuition?
4. Governor Granholm recently proposed giving additional funds from the federal economic stimulus package to universities and community colleges that hold the line on tuition. Do you support this proposal?
5. If Ferris State University is facing a budget deficit, what areas would you look to first to make cuts? Please list several areas where the University has already made cuts or become more efficient.
6. Capital outlay projects for universities require a 25% match before getting funds from the state for building projects. In these tough economic times, do you think a university should be spending money on building projects rather than using that money to hold down tuition rates?
7. What type of outcomes should the university measure to determine if it is being successful?
8. What is your position on the importance of state universities as authorizers of charter public schools?
9. In which areas of technological research does your university specialize? How effective is your school at commercializing this research to help grow the state's economy?
10. Do you think that K-12 institutions are doing a good job of preparing students for college? Why?

Alisha M Baker
Ferris State University Appointment Questions

1. What goals would you like to accomplish during your time on the board?

Working to ensure the long-term viability of the university. Helping focus on an offering of educational opportunity of benefit to the students and the state. Graduate an increased number of students that are prepared for success. Build better connections between high schools, community colleges and universities.

2. Over the last 15 or 20 years it seems that all state universities have been expanding programs to try to offer everything to everyone. Do you think this is a good idea?

To be truly successful, universities need to be willing to think beyond the limits of "the way we've always done it" and test new models. With that said, careful research and planning should be conducted prior to expanding programming. It is more prudent to be highly effective with existing offerings than continuing to add offerings for the sake of having more to offer. One of the significant changes over the past few years is an increasing trend of students to not leave home for college. We need to provide access to the higher education our students need. It is important to build upon degrees and offerings at our colleges.

3. Please describe the conditions that would have to exist before you would vote to increase tuition?

In general, tuition increases have outpaced the rate of inflation. If a budgetary shortfall would prevent the university from performing its core mission, which is the preparation of graduates to meet the industrial and business needs of our state, the nation and global market, it would be cause to look at the rate of tuition. Tuition increases should always be accompanied by similar or larger increases in student financial aid.

4. Governor Granholm recently proposed giving additional funds from the federal economic stimulus package to universities and community colleges that hold the line on tuition. Do you support this proposal?

Yes. Universities and colleges can certainly use additional support. If the stimulus package includes funding opportunities it should be equitably distributed to assure strong educational opportunities.

5. If Ferris State University is facing a budget deficit, what areas would you look to first to make cuts? Please list several areas where the University has already made cuts or become more efficient.

Alisha M Baker
Ferris State University Appointment Questions

All universities have experience in making cuts. In reducing a university budget, care should be taken not to damage the academic quality of the educational experience. Ultimately, the university needs to ensure that appropriate degrees are available through the university. The goal should be to cut non-essential services as determined through consultation with the university administration and other appropriate stakeholders that don't add educational benefit. However, nearly 75% of a university budget is tied up in people. The most effective long-term way to cut the budget is a reduction of positions through attrition.

There are many strong indicators of the efficiencies at Ferris State University. Since 2001 the average cost of a student's education has annually increased by just 2.5 percent. This is ½ percent less than the consumer price index during this period, and is 1.5 percent less than the higher education price index. Today, Ferris teaches 50 percent more students than at that time and with essentially the same number of employees. Ferris has already cut 90 positions despite the fact that Ferris is Michigan's fastest growing university.

6. Capital outlay projects for universities require a 25% match before getting funds from the state for building projects. In these tough economic times, do you think a university should be spending money on building projects rather than using that money to hold down tuition rates?

Yes. At our state institutions significant portions of the institutional match for capital projects comes from donor contributions and are funds that would not be given toward operating costs. Further, these investments are not for today, but tomorrow. Ferris continues to build higher education for the students of tomorrow.

7. What type of outcomes should the university measure to determine if it is being successful?

There are numerous ways to measure success. To name a few: The retention rate of students and completion of program, whether it is a 2 or 4 year course of study. Overall enrollment, re-admissions, and transfers, especially from a 2 year institution to a 4 year degree completion program. Job placement of graduates and the quality of the education offered.

8. What is your position on the importance of state universities as authorizers of charter public schools?

Ferris authorizes 16 charter schools. In many of these areas, an important alternative is offered. Educational alternatives are important and must be held to high standards.

Alisha M Baker
Ferris State University Appointment Questions

9. In which areas of technological research does your university specialize? How effective is your school at commercializing this research to help grow the state's economy?

Ferris focuses more on learning than research. Rather than focus on research, Ferris teaches students how to implement work in technological areas. Examples of this are the tests in many occupations that are developed by Ferris' programs and utilized by industry

10. Do you think that K-12 institutions are doing a good job preparing students for college? Why?

Everyone in education should continually try to do better. Losing one student is one too many. If a student does not learn to read, write and figure, and as a result does not graduate from high school, this is someone who has limited prospects for the future. There are many examples of K-12 school systems that are doing an extraordinary job at preparing students for college, but there are also school systems that could do better.